

the geography of Maryland is in fact unknown to the mass of her citizens, otherwise well informed.

In the opinion of the committee, a map might be constructed upon geographical principles at a small expense, which would expose the whole surface of our state to view. So much of its topography might be collected in the same space as to show the height of the principal ridges and mountains relatively as well as their several elevations above tide water, and to indicate the most suitable and practicable directions for future routes of inter-communication and other improvements.

The importance of an accurate map might be practically demonstrated by a consideration of the very great sums which have already been expended by the state and its several corporate companies in exploring routes and making partial surveys with reference to particular projects of internal improvement. A very small portion of those expenditures judiciously applied, would have procured a map of the whole State. And a complete map constructed upon just principles would have given to the several improvement companies nearly all the information which they have collected at great cost.

An argument in favor of the early commencement of the work, is, that the surveys already by the immediate direction of the State or by incorporated companies within her limits, include a very large portion of our territory. Thus a survey has been made of the valleys of the Susquehanna and its tributaries—another survey includes the Potomac and its tributaries—another includes all the country between the Potomac and Patapsco, over which it was supposed practicable to construct a lateral canal from the Potomac to Baltimore. A fourth, undertaken by the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, extended over parts of Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Frederick, Washington and Allegany counties and others made by direction of the Legislature in certain counties of the Eastern Shore. All those surveys are now easily accessible to us. And it would not be difficult with their aid to construct a map of the northern and western counties at little expense. But as the objects for which some of those surveys were prepared, become accomplished, their preservation will cease to be important to their present proprietors; and your committee therefore fear that the delay of a few years may deprive us of all those facilities which we would enjoy by an immediate projection of the map.